



**State of Louisiana**  
Department of Environmental Quality

June 13, 2002



M.J. "Mike" Foster  
Governor

Contact Jim Friloux for more information: (225) 765-0735; e-mail: [jim\\_f@deq.state.la.us](mailto:jim_f@deq.state.la.us)

J. Dale Givens  
Secretary

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**WHO:** The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Department of Public Safety (DPS).

**WHAT:** Training of Motor Vehicle Inspectors for new On Board Diagnostics Program (OBD).

**WHERE:** Louisiana Technical College  
Port Allen Campus  
3233 Rosedale Road  
Port Allen, LA

**DATE:** Friday, June 14, 2002

**TIME:** 10:00 a.m.

**CONTACT:** Chris Lee - Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality  
**763-5414**  
William Davis – Louisiana Department of Public Safety  
**925-6202**  
Danny Crump - Louisiana Technical College  
**359-9213**

**ATTACHMENT:** On Board Diagnostics Program (OBD) Fact Sheet (2 Pages)



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## On Board Diagnostics Program (OBD) Fact Sheet

- In 1996, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a ruling relating to the implementation of OBD checks as a routine part of states' Inspection and Maintenance (I/M) programs.
- Implementation of mandatory OBD checks was delayed to January, 2002 or January, 2003 depending on the current status of a state's I/M program.
- The delay had no appreciable effect upon the environment.
- OBD is being implemented in vehicle I/M programs around the country.
- OBD is a complex computer package installed on 1996 and newer cars and light-duty trucks. The computer controls the operation of engine systems and provides early warning of potentially high emissions of air pollutants.
- OBD inspections ensure that vehicles emit the minimum amount of pollutants during their useful life.
- The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 mandates that a vehicle I/M program with OBD testing is implemented in the five-parish Baton Rouge ozone non-attainment area for the control of emissions from motor vehicles.
- Ozone forms when volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides react in the presence of sunlight and warm temperatures on days with little or no wind.

(Continued)



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**On Board Diagnostics Program (OBD)**  
**Fact Sheet**  
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- Ozone is one of six criteria pollutants for which ambient air standards have been established. Louisiana currently meets federal air quality standards for all criteria pollutants except for ozone in five parishes. These five parishes conform what is known as the ozone non-attainment area.
- The five ozone non-attainment areas in the state are Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Iberville, Livingston and West Baton Rouge parishes.
- Beginning July 1, 2002, during a vehicle's annual safety inspection, OBD testing will be conducted on 1996 and newer gasoline-fueled cars and light-duty trucks with a gross vehicle weight rating of 10,000 pounds or less which are registered in the parishes of Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Iberville, Livingston and West Baton Rouge.
- The cost for the annual safety inspection including the OBD test, if applicable, is \$13.00.
- The cost of the annual vehicle inspection is established by the State Legislature.
- In the Baton Rouge area, over the next three years, OBD is estimated to reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC) by approximately 8 tons per day and emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx) by approximately 6 tons per day. VOC and NOx are ozone-forming pollutants.

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